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In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Serial Number: 09/081,872  
Appn. Filed: 05/20/98  
Applicant(s): John H. Messing  
Appn. Title: Electronic Signature Program  
Examiner: Douglas J. Meislahn  
Group Art Unit: 2767

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116-  
EDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 2767

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Technology Center 2100

September 19, 2002  
Tucson, Arizona

### Amendment E

(Amendment under Rule 116)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, District of Columbia 20231

Sir:

This is a response to the Office Advisory Action mailed September 6, 2002. It is identical to the previously-filed after final amendment dated August 13, 2002 except as to the actions requested of the examiner, which were stated in error in the prior submission. Please allow amendment of the above application and allow the claims as follows:

**Specification:** Applicant believes in light of a question raised by the Examiner that a sentence of the specification contained in a previous amendment may be confusing without further elaboration, and has added a clause to it. Applicant requests the specification (as amended earlier by the substitute specification dated December 28, 2000) be further amended as follows.

The amendment C of December 26, 2001, p. 2, lines 13-15, formulated an amendment to the proposed specification as follows:

"P. 10, l. 13, after "cipher" insert – This symmetric encryption cipher embodiment differs from the preferred embodiment, in that in the latter, a message digesting function or asymmetric key pair is used for the signature and verification functions.—"